

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the abstract of the disclosure and substitute it with the following abstract:

--The anionic hydrogel of this invention is obtained by irradiating polymers suitably derivatised with photoreticulable groups in the presence of acid comonomers. The polymers are polyaminoacid polymers, polyaspartamide polymers, acrylic or methacrylic acid polymers, alkylvinyl polymers, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, polysaccharides, dextrans, pectins, amides and derivatives, synthetic or natural rubber or alginic acid. The acid comonomer is selected from methacrylic acid or acrylic acid.--

Please insert the following paragraph after the title:

--This application is a 371 of PCT/IT05/00081 filed on February 16, 2005, which claims the benefit of Italian Patent Application No. RM2004A000168 filed on April 1, 2004, the contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.--